

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

On page 8 of the Specification, please replace paragraph 19 with the following amended paragraph:

[19] Figure 1 is a high level architecture of a computing system 100 for executing methods in accordance with embodiments of our invention. Computing system 100 comprises a processor 102 for executing the methods of our invention, which methods execute as “validation and mapping process” 104. The validating and mapping process 104 has access to one or more reference databases 106a-d and a plurality of target databases 108a-d. The reference and target databases can be co-located and part of computing system 100 (such as databases 106a-b and ~~[[108a-b]] 108c-d~~) or can be external to the computing system and accessible via a network 109 (such as databases 106c-d and ~~[[108c-d]] 108a-b~~). The validating and mapping process 104 receives input data queries 110 from a plurality of requesting sources 122, wherein the input data queries 110 are directed at one or more of the target databases ~~[[106]] 108~~. The requesting sources 122 are external to the computing system (for example, external end-users and external systems accessing computing system 100 through a network interface) and/or are local to the computing system 100 (for example, end-users directly accessing computing system 100 or local applications executing on the system). Similarly, once retrieving records from the target databases 108, the validating and mapping process 104 transfers the retrieved records 112 to the requesting sources 122. Computing system 100 also comprises a database of “reference-based mapping rules” 114 for accessing the reference databases 106 and of “target-based query rules” 116 for accessing the target databases 108. Computing system 100 further comprises a “list of reference databases” 124 for selecting a reference database 106. Optionally, computing system 100 also comprises “transformation rules” 118, which are further described below.